

## Bernie Matsuno Appointed ACTING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOODS



Bernie Matsuno

Bernie Matsuno has been appointed Acting Director for the Department of Neighborhoods. In choosing a temporary replacement for retiring director Yvonne Sanchez, Mayor Nickels has chosen someone with deep roots in the department and a reputation for strong managerial, program development, and budgetary skills.

Bernie Matsuno has been with the Department of Neighborhoods since its inception in 1988, when it was the Office of Neighborhoods. She was instrumental in developing the Neighborhood Matching Fund Program, a nationally and internationally acclaimed program, over 17 years ago. She was then manager of that program until her promotion in 2004 to Community Building Division Director.

During her tenure as Matching Fund Manager and Division Director, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Department of Neighborhoods' community building efforts are relevant to the City's diverse neighborhoods, and supportive of the Mayor's goals to be inclusive of underrepresented communities. She is most proud of developing and piloting a Race Relations and Social Justice Fund and then making this a perma-

nent part of the Neighborhood Matching Fund. She has extensive experience working with community groups throughout Seattle.

Bernie's background in budget development and analysis, as well as her program development and management experience, will be critical to ensuring the continuation of efficient delivery of programs and services during this time. Prior to joining the Office of Neighborhoods, Bernie's career in public service included work in the Public Defender's Office, the Seattle School District, and with the Seattle Police Department's Neighborhood Block Watch Program. She holds a bachelor's in community services from Seattle University, and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington.

She is an active parent at her son, Kellen's school. When not cheering on her son's many sports teams with her husband Rod, Bernie enjoys knitting, snowboarding, and tennis and serves on the board of several organizations. The Matsunos have made their home in the Mount Baker-Lakewood neighborhood in Southeast Seattle for over 30 years.

Bernie has successfully persuaded Brent Crook, former Community Building Division Director, to come back to city government on a part-time basis in an acting role at his former position. There will be a search and hiring process for a department director sometime this summer. 🌐

# Mayor Nickels Awards Nearly \$220,000 to 20 Seattle Neighborhood Projects

Mayor Nickels unveiled new funding awards for 20 different neighborhood projects through the Department of Neighborhoods' Matching Fund. Several times a year, Small and Simple Project Fund Awards are given to groups committed to building a better community by matching public funds with locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor.

On hand were representatives for nearly every project, community members, our new Seattle City Councilmember, Sally Clark, who chairs the new Economic Development & Neighborhoods Committee, and Neighborhoods' Acting Director, Bernie Matsuno.

This season's award recipients were a diverse group that included projects from all over the city. The 20 awards totaling \$219,605 range from \$500 to \$15,000. In addition to the City's contribution to the projects, the communities will "match" the City's dollars with local resources valued at \$210,257.

"These awards, which are neither small, nor simple, go a long way toward bringing grass roots community improvement while bringing neighborhoods together. I'm

very proud of these volunteer groups and what they are going to accomplish," said Mayor Nickels.

Councilmember Clark added, "Though the City of Seattle is proud to play a financial role in making our neighborhoods more livable, the real credit should go to the citizens, who as community leaders, work with their neighbors and the City to bring these projects to fruition—these people are neighborhood heroes."

Bernie Matsuno, Acting Director of Neighborhoods, summed up the community efforts, "We have a great mix of projects from all over the city, they include traffic calming, playground renovations just in time for summer, neighborhood enhancements, and youth involvement."

The Small and Simple Projects Fund is one of four components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and provides awards \$15,000 and under to support community-driven projects that take up to six months to complete. Seattle neighborhoods have completed more than 2500 projects in the last 16 years using as little as \$100 and as much as \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Here is a list of this round's awards:

## Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple Awards

### Race and Social Justice

#### **ACE (Adelante con Educacion; Forward with Education) Conference**

MECHA

NMF: \$14,850

Match: \$9,175

Description: This project will organize and hold a two-day conference at the University of Washington which primarily focuses on Latina/o high school students in the Seattle area. The objective is to recruit a minimum of 100 Latino high school students to participate in diverse workshops to foster the desire to pursue a higher education amongst Latina/o students. A second goal is to develop a network to support the students and at the same time to create an understanding of race relations and social justice issues

#### **Metropolitan Improvement District Summer Youth Ambassadors**

Metropolitan Improvement District/1st Ave Alley Partnership

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$15,000

Description: The Metropolitan Improvement District would like to sponsor fifteen high school-aged minority youth to serve as Summer Youth Ambassadors for our not-for-profit organization. They would primarily serve as concierge for the downtown area when travel and tourism season is at its peak in Seattle.

Continued on next page.

## Neighborhood Planning and Design

### Angel Morgan P-Patch and Sitting Park (Final Phase)

Friends of Angel Morgan P-Patch and Sitting Park

NMF: \$ 15,000

Match: \$19,465

Description: In the final phase of this project, Neighbors will create a 30 to 50+ plot P-Patch and landscaped sitting park for this culturally diverse, low-to-moderate-income community.

### Ursula Judkins Viewpoint Development

Friends of Ursula Judkins Viewpoint/Smith Cove

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$7,500

Description: Community members will plan and develop a community connection with the viewpoint/park in order to create an environment whereby it can become a fully developed park.

### South Hudson Curbs

South Hudson Curbs

NMF: \$3,500

Match: \$2,525

Description: Residents on the 3200 block of S Hudson would like to commission plans, including design specs and cost estimates, for sidewalk improvements including installation of extruded concrete curbs and planting strips on both sides of the street. Residents will also design a plan for the addition of native plants to the planting strips.

### Lake City Mini Park Community Project Planning Phase

Lake City Chamber of Commerce

NMF: \$500

Match: \$500

Description: This project will transform Lake City Mini Park into a place for the community to gather for events, enjoy a meal and find information on upcoming events in the Lake City area. Community members will solicit RFP's from artists for the design of artwork and an information kiosk to be added to the facade surrounding the portable toilet just outside the park.

### River City Skatepark

Sea Mar Community Health Centers

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$15,000

Description: River City Skate Park will be a 10,000 square foot, free skatepark to be organized and designed by youth of the South Park area. River City Skatepark will offer a place for people to gather, while invigorating a derelict property in the South Park community.

### PARSNIP – Palatine Artistic Street & Neighborhood Improvement Project

PARSNIP – Palatine Artistic Street & Neighborhood Improvement Project

NMF: \$4,000

Match: \$2,085

Description: Neighborhood residents will design and create esthetically-pleasing gathering spaces, resulting in an inviting, walkable neighborhood and closer knit community.

## Media

### Community Visions

Olive-Bellevue Neighbors

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$11,000

Description: The community of Olive-Bellevue neighbors will create a Neighborhood Media Space and "story lab", and produce regular neighborhood news reels. By developing a drop-in artistic center, they will collect neighborhood stories, and identify a community voice, uncovering varied visions, inspirations, and potential organizing power existing within the community.

Continued on next page.

### NEW SIDEWALKS FOR BALLARD AVENUE

The Ballard Merchants Association was successful in securing resources from the 2006 City's Cumulative Reserve Fund to replace one block face of sidewalks along Ballard Ave NW, in the Ballard Avenue Landmarks District. SDOT and the community both recognize that the existing sidewalk conditions in the Landmarks District are dangerous and unsightly. Although '06 City resources will replace only one block face of sidewalks this year, the Ballard Merchants Association will continue to seek annual City support through the CRF to replace deteriorated sidewalks on a total of six block faces. On March 2, Ballard Avenue Landmarks Board gave its approval for this project which will replace sidewalks constructed with unsecured unit pavers with poured concrete sidewalks built to City standards.

### PLANNING FOR NEW CROWN HILL PARK BEGINS

On March 22, the first public meeting was held to discuss the future of a new park in the heart of the Crown Hill neighborhood. This approximate one acre site adjoins the former Crown Hill Elementary School at 9250 14th NW. The park will be developed with approximately \$1million set aside from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. Although the property will remain in Seattle Public School ownership, the site will provide several active and passive park activities including short field Little League and soccer, outdoor seating, landscaping and walkways. This park was identified as the number one priority for the Crown Hill neighborhood during the development of the Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Plan in the late 1990's.

## CENTRAL

### MADCAP CLEANS UP

MadCap, which stands for Madison Capitol Hill, is located in the 23rd and Madison area. MadCap is comprised of property owners and renters who focus on making the neighborhood environment safer. The group conducts monthly litter pick up campaigns. The litter includes hypodermic needles, beer cans, and wine bottles. The group is supporting the City's initiative related to the Alcohol Impact Area. Pictures of the bottles, cans, and needles were recently forwarded to the City to be used in a meeting with the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

MadCap was also instrumental in supporting the Mayor's Walking Tour of the East Madison Corridor.

Happenings, continued on following page...

## Neighborhood Enhancement

### Beautifying Othello and Enhancing Neighborhood Identity

Othello Neighborhood Association

NMF: \$9,460

Match: \$9,775

Description: By creating a pedestrian friendly approach to the future Othello Light Rail Station, the neighbors will improve the Othello streetscape corridor. Landscaping improvements will include a kiosk and flower boxes, as a relocation of neighborhood banners embroidered with the neighborhood name.

### Miracle on 56th Street – Tangletown Curb Bulb Construction

Citizens for 56th Street

NMF: \$12,605

Match: \$14,005

Description: Building on a continuing streetscape improvement and traffic calming project along N/NE 55th/56th St, this phase of the project will construct a curb bulb adjacent to the Tangletown Pub.

### Maple Leaf Signage

Maple Leaf Sign Committee

NMF: \$2,080

Match: \$2,080

Description: To enhance the Maple Leaf neighborhood's identity, 12 Maple Leaf Neighborhood signs will be installed, relocated, or removed along major arterials and at other recognized gateways to the community.

Continued on next page.

## Bailey Gatzert Community Playground Equipment

Friends of Gatzert Playground and Bailey Gatzert Courageous Conversations Group

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$15,072

Description: Outdated equipment will be replaced with age appropriate equipment, making the playground a safer and more inviting meeting place for the community.

## Planting NE 105th Planting Strips & Community Celebration

Friends of NE 105th Street

NMF: \$12,490

Match: \$12,620

Description: The Friends of NE 105th Street will purchase and plant the landscape material along the planting strips and a traffic circle along the north side of NE 105th St, between 32nd Ave NE and Ravenna Ave NE. After the work is finished, a celebration and picnic will be held for the volunteers.

## Arts and Culture

### Friends of Art at Dahl Playfield

Friends of Art at Dahl Playfield

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$19,400

Description: Artwork by professional artist John Hoge will be fabricated and installed at Dahl Playfield. The artist has completed the design and developed a maintenance plan with Parks. The community has participated in all phases of the design and selection process.

Continued on next page.

## LESCHI LIGHT BRIGADE

Residents on 31st and 32nd Ave, between E Terrace and E Yesler Way, have expressed concerns over their 30 year old underground wiring system. At the March Leschi Community Council meeting, residents pleaded for support from the rest of the community. The District Coordinator is working with Ms. DaVonna Johnson in the Superintendents Office to arrange a speaker to explain the budget process to replace the underground wiring, as well as what type of impacts the residents may face during the improvements process. City Light is planning to meet with the impacted Leschi residents in mid-April.

## DELRIDGE

### SYLVAN WAY CLOSED

Sylvan Way, which connects 35th Ave SW to Delridge Way SW, was closed when workers discovered unstable soils beneath the roadway. The workers were trying to install a new sewer system from the new 178-unit housing development currently under construction to the main sewer line under Sylvan Way. When the incident occurred, however, residents in the area complained they were not immediately notified of the situation. A resident contacted SDOT to discover the public information person he talked to was also not aware that the street was closed. One of the main east-west arterial streets from Forest Lawn Cemetery to the Home Depot is expected to remain closed until early May.

### CULTURAL ARTS CENTER COMPLETED

Construction of the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center is complete. Paul Fischburg, Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA) Director, reported that Walsh Construction really came through with a tremendous effort. There are still some roof leaks that are being investigated. 34 of the 36 units are rented and, hopefully, the last two will be occupied before the end of the month, meeting their projected lease update with their tax credit investors. By the end of March, all of the anchor tenants will be moved in with five-year leases signed. DNDA's Cultural Center staff are busy booking space. Tremendous things are happening. Check it out at [youngstownarts.org](http://youngstownarts.org).

Happenings, continued on following page...



**“ELENA ENTRE HERMANOS”**

Elena Poniatowska, Mexican writer and novelist, with a long tradition of advocating on behalf of Latin American women and the plight of indigenous people of America (the continent), will be visiting Seattle for the “Cinco de Mayo Celebrations”.

Entre Hermanos Community Center on Capitol Hill is a LGBT grassroots organization that provides HIV/SDT prevention and educational services to the area’s Latino(a) community.

“Elena Entre Hermanos” is a project that will be including a radio interview of the writer and staff from Entre Hermanos on the status of the Latino community with emphasis on the Latino LGBT community. The interview will be aired Sunday May, 7, 2006 at the “Enterate Show” at 1540 AM. This project will be applying to the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

**COMMUNITY MOURNS CAPITOL HILL SHOOTING VICTIMS**

The East District Coordinator spent Sunday morning at the Miller Park Neighborhood visiting the site where the shootings took place and talking to neighbors and members of the Miller Park Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Incidentally, the old Capitol Hill Neighborhood Service Center was located 2 blocks east of Republican Street from where the shootings took place, prior to our move at the Capitol Hill Library.

Most comments from the organized community in the area expressed grief and dismay at the unfolding of events in their neighborhood. The common message was that the neighborhood and community is a safe place to live, and that the violent incident was a terrible exception to the usually quaint and quiet neighborhood.

Neighborhood leaders pointed out that the major public safety concerns continue to be at Madison Street and the “Deanos’ controversy.

Tuesday, March 28, an interfaith ceremony took place at the site of the events and afterwards a community meeting, sponsored by the Miller Park Improvement Association, with a standing room attendance at the Miller Park Community Center with words of encouragement from Mayor Nickels and a question and answer session with Seattle Police Department personnel.

This meeting included the attendance of most of the City Council members, as well as State Representative Ed Murray.

Happenings, continued on following page...

**Ballard Avenue Interpretive Historical Markers**

Ballard Historical Society

NMF: \$5,570

Match: \$12,700

Description: Historical markers will be placed on 25 notable buildings in the Ballard Avenue Landmark District. Each marker will display a historical image of the building along with the year the building was constructed and a description of the building’s history. A self-guided map of the markers will be distributed to the community. The project highlights Ballard’s history and brings attention to the historical architecture in the area.

**Earth Day Mural and Book**

The RE Store

NMF: \$5,000

Match: \$9,430

Description: Schools, businesses and residents will work together to create a mural celebrating environmental sustainability for the Ballard community. High school students will chronicle their involvement in this project. The collaboration will culminate with an Earth Day Mural and Art Book exhibition.

**Art and Education at Ravenna Park’s Playground**

Art in Ravenna Playground Action Council

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$17,024

Description: Production and installation of five unique artistic and educational elements is planned for Ravenna Park’s play-

Continued on next page.

# HAPPENINGS

## your neighborhood

### GREATER DUWAMISH

ground: inlaid bronze native leaves; wading pool stepping stones; fossil mosaics; a native bronze animal sculpture; and a decorative stone and bronze gateway welcoming visitors to the park and play area.

## Family and Education

### Operation Imagination

Gatewood Elementary School PTSA

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$10,250

Description: Neighbors, school staff, students, families and a design consultant will work together to develop a conceptual site plan for the Gatewood Elementary School Playground. This project is the first step in transforming this play area into a neighborhood destination where people of all ages meet, play and exercise.

### Laurelhurst Elementary School Community Renovation Playground

Laurelhurst Elementary PTSA

NMF: \$15,000

Match: \$15,651

Description: Community members will hire a professional landscape architect to work with them to create an overall conceptual plan for renovation of all school playgrounds and a detailed plan for the south playground. The goal is to turn unsafe neglected play areas into inviting neighborhood spaces suitable for play and community gatherings. 🌐

### GETTING CONNECTED

At the recent Clean and Green Event in South Park, Fire Station 26 agreed to replant some ornamental shrubs from Cesar Chavez Park as the park is scheduled to be renovated. Now that they have established a rapport, community members hope to continue to include the station in community events. There has also been a suggestion that perhaps the community could adopt the fire station to do a beautification project in the front of the station.

### ESL CLASSES OFFERED

Charlie Cuniff of ECOSS announced that they will be seeking interested volunteers to help teach ESL classes four nights a week at the Neighborhood Center. Volunteers will need to undergo two days of training.

### SOUTH PARK SERVICE PROVIDERS

A group of South Park service providers decided to continue meeting after funding for Communities That Care expired. Representatives felt the need to continue as a means to network and communicate what their individual groups are doing and working on in the South Park community. The groups include City staff, Concord Elementary, UW School of Nursing, Marra Farm, Sea Mar, SPCC, and other affiliations. The group will also be inviting and meeting with the new Latino Service providers and, hopefully, the groups will be able to consolidate the two meetings into one.

## LAKE UNION

### WALLINGFORD CHAMBER CO-PRESIDENT MET WITH FREMONT CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS

The new co-president of the Wallingford Chamber of Commerce, Kara Cieriello, met with the Fremont Chamber board members. Ms. Cieriello shared new and exciting events taking place in Wallingford. This year Wallingford will have a farmers market in the parking lot of the Wallingford Center. The farmers market will be open every Wednesday from 3-7 pm from June 7 through September 29. Wallingfordsaves.com, a new receipt exchange program, will offer local shoppers a great way to save money. Shoppers can take a receipt from any participating merchant to any other participating merchant for discounts of up to \$5.00 off any purchase. The Wallingford chamber is also looking into creating a business directory map like the Fremont Walking Guide to help revitalize the business district.

Happenings, continued on following page...

# HAPPENINGS

## your neighborhood

### WALLINGFORD LOSES A STRONG COMMUNITY MEMBER

Betty Richardson, a community advocate for South Wallingford, died on March 10 of a ruptured aneurysm. A memorial service was held on April 2, at University Friends Meeting Hall.

### MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

#### OFF LEASH AREAS FOR QUEEN ANNE AND MAGNOLIA?

The Parks Department and the Department of Neighborhoods convened a community meeting to explore options for an off-leash area in Queen Anne and Magnolia. Currently, the neighborhoods have no such facilities. Neighbors from various groups, as well as representatives of the Committee for Off Leash Areas (COLA), suggested numerous sites, including lower Kinnear Park in Queen Anne. This site has been discussed as a possible off-leash area, following the model of 3rd and Bell Park, where a new dog area has displaced illegal behavior in the park.

#### QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATOR STEPS DOWN

John Leonard, who has served as Neighborhood District Coordinator for Queen Anne/Magnolia for three years, announced he is leaving the Department of Neighborhoods. Leonard successfully engaged citizens in numerous projects, from Ursula Judkins Park planning to the Uptown Dumpster Free Alley program. His outreach efforts succeeded in tripling the size of the Magnolia/Queen Anne Neighborhood District Council. John will join Williamworks, a Seattle consulting firm, as Director of Public Affairs. Good luck in your new career John, and thank you for all of your efforts, you've made a big difference!

#### CONEY IS JEFFERSON NOMINEE

John Coney, past chair of the Uptown Alliance, Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council, and City Neighborhood Council was a distinguished nominee for a 2006 Jefferson Award. The honor is bestowed annually to recognize outstanding volunteer contributions to the community.

Happenings, continued on following page...

## COLUMBIA CITY BAKERY: More Dough Invested in Landmark District

By Sarah Sodt, Historic Preservation,  
Department of Neighborhoods

The building located at 4865 Rainier Avenue South was constructed in 1892 by the fraternal order known as the Knights of Pythias; it was originally an imposing two story frame building with an ornate false front and a large meeting hall on the second floor.



By the 1930s, the ornate turrets on the false front of the building had been removed and the facade bricked over. In April 1941, a fire that began in the space occupied by the Columbia Electric Bakery destroyed the second story of the building. The building was repaired and continued in use as a one-story building.

In 2004 the building was purchased by Evan Andres and Andrew Meltzer for use as the home of the new Columbia City Bakery (no connection to the former Columbia Electric Bakery). Andres and Meltzer, with their architect Jeff

Continued on next page.



Woodward, applied to the Columbia City Review Committee and Landmarks Preservation Board for approval to remove the non-historic facade and rehabilitate the southern storefront.

The removal of the non-historic facade revealed the old transom windows intact beneath, but unfortunately there was noth-



ing left of the rest of the historic storefront. Jeff Woodward designed a new wood storefront with large windows and an inset entry door that compliment the historic transom windows and canopy. The Board commended the owners for the compatibility of the new design with the existing historic building fabric.

The success of the bakery is obvious by the many customers leaving the new bakery with the ubiquitous pink pastry box in hand. 🌐

# HAPPENINGS

## your neighborhood

### NORTH

#### SAFE CROSSINGS CAMPAIGN WILL BRING NEW SIDEWALKS TO VICTORY HEIGHTS/MEADOWBROOK

The Mayor's recently announced \$2.5 million Safe Crossings campaign includes \$225,000 for a sidewalk on the south side of NE 98th St from Lake City Way NE to 20th Ave NE. This sidewalk will help provide safer walking routes to nearby Sacajawea Elementary School and playground. The Neighborhood District Coordinator will work with SDOT on community outreach during design and construction.

#### LAKE CITY'S ALBERT DAVIS PARK BLOOMS

More and more people are visiting newly redeveloped Albert Davis Park next to the Lake City library and Neighborhood Service Center. The playground attracts numerous families with young kids. Youth come hang out and play Frisbee or football. People sit on the grass using laptop computers. On a recent sunny Saturday, the Neighborhood District Coordinator saw a children's birthday party being held on the park's grassy expanse. This is quite a remarkable turnaround for a park that prior to its redevelopment was seen as a forbidding place. Many thanks to City Parks and the ProParks Levy for making this redevelopment possible.

### NORTHEAST

#### THE AVEWORKS APPROACHES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Just over a year ago, after a neighborhood clean-up in the U District, some of the homeless youth who had participated "debriefed" with the Coordinator of the Partnership for Youth and the Neighborhood District Coordinator. One idea that came out of this debrief was the notion of regular clean-ups. Seattle Public Utilities responded favorably to an inquiry about support for regular clean-ups. And, so, the Green Team was born. Each month, for the last 10 months, a crew of six homeless youth have hit the alleys on either side of the "Ave", sweeping, digging and picking up garbage. The project coordinators were delighted when Seattle Public Utilities indicated a willingness to fund the project for a second year. The vision for the future of this project is that it eventually becomes an on-the-job training program for homeless youth and will become an important step in helping them achieve stability.

Happenings, continued on following page...

## RIISING OUT OF THE SHADOWS (ROOTS)

ROOTS is the umbrella for two critical programs serving homeless youth and adults in the U District. The Young Adult Shelter recently celebrated its first anniversary of being open seven nights a week, 52 weeks a year. It is noteworthy that the program only had to close three nights. Without additional staff, ROOTS managed to keep the shelter open every night in the same place, providing a much appreciated level of consistency for young homeless people who no longer had to figure out which church to go to for shelter.

The other program is the Friday Feast, a meal for everyone who steps through the door on a Friday night. This service has been operating every Friday night for 10 years (without missing a Friday) in the University Temple United Methodist Church. Friday, March 31 marks the 10th anniversary of the program. Kudos to Sinan Demirel, who started the dinner and has been there ever since.

## NORTHWEST

### GAIN GROUPS CONTINUE PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIONS

This month, in addition to the campaign of regularly scheduled citizen patrols and first Saturday clean-up events, members of GAIN (Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors) and GAIN, the Highlands joined forces to clean up an abandoned property at 135th and Linden Ave N. The group worked with DPD Code Enforcement staff to notify the property owner to address all code violations and clean up the site. This resulted in the removal of mountains of garbage, property boarding up the building and repairs to the surrounding fence to discourage further trespassing on the property. In working on this property, GAIN also contacted the neighboring Office Depot to paint out graffiti behind their store, which resulted in creating a new partner in helping to reduce crime in the area.

Neighbors are delighted to have such an immediate visual change and hope this will aid in improving public safety. As mentioned earlier, GAIN's volunteer efforts have led to their selection as the Spring Clean Kick Off site on Saturday, April 1.

Happenings, continued on following page...

# Neighborhood Matching Fund Ideas Fair

## "Connecting People, Communities and Government"

The Department of Neighborhoods hosted an Ideas Fair Open House and Workshop for interested groups of neighbors and community organizations on March 15th at the New Holly Gathering Hall. Ideas Fairs provide information and technical assistance on the Neighborhood Matching Fund and related City resources.

Partnering with the Seattle Housing Authority, Community Builder Joy Bryngelson helped spread the word and placed signboards throughout New Holly to solicit interest. Batik Banners, the results of a Small Sparks project in New Holly, adorned the walls and stated "Welcome" in 8 different languages.


The first portion of the program was an open house with general information about the Neighborhood Matching Fund and community building resources from other City departments including the Seattle Department of Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Department of Information and Technology and Seattle Public Utilities.

Over 60 people were there, and when asked who was attending their first NMF event, over half raised their hands. Participants had the opportunity to check out the resource tables, converse with members of the Department of Neighborhoods and share in light refreshments.

Continued on next page.

Following the open house, there were technical workshops on Organizing and Fundraising, and on How to Prepare a Successful Matching Fund Application. A Neighborhood Matching Fund overview was presented in Spanish to a group of interested neighbors.

Participation in a technical workshop at this event fulfilled the Matching Fund Application requirement for applicants to attend a Matching Fund workshop or meet with a project manager prior to applying for funds. Because of its popularity, Neighborhoods will continue this new opportunity for involving more people. Please contact us at 684-0464 to find out about future events! 🌐



City of Seattle  
Department of Neighborhoods  
Greg Nickels, Mayor

is published six times a year by the  
City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.  
Mayor: Gregory J. Nickels  
Acting Director: Bernie Matsuno  
The Department of Neighborhoods reserves  
the right to edit material submitted for  
publication for length and clarity.  
Please address submissions and questions  
to: Editor, Neighborhood News  
Peter McGraw,  
Department of Neighborhoods  
700 5th Ave., Ste 1700,  
P. O. Box 94649,  
Seattle WA 98124-4649  
ph: (206) 615-0950  
peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov  
Accommodations for persons with  
disabilities provided upon request.  
Printed on recycled paper.

### AURORA PROJECT DRAWS QUESTIONS

SDOT staff Dianna Holloway and Peg Nielsen attended the March meeting of the Northwest District Council to present information on the Aurora Avenue North Corridor Project. The project is intended to create transit and pedestrian improvements in the segment from N 110th to N 145th St, by creating additional dedicated transit lanes, a wider median with dedicated turn areas and continuous sidewalks on both sides of Aurora. Participants at the meetings expressed concerns about the cost of the project, the potential consequences of traffic cutting through on neighborhood streets, and the removal of customer parking for several Aurora businesses.

## SOUTHWEST

### ALKI BUSINESS COALITION READY TO OPEN FOR BUSINESS?

About 20 Alki area businesses met on March 28 to discuss the possibility of establishing a formal organization as a way of promoting and marketing the business area and as a way to collectively address issues and concerns that impact the business community. An April 4 meeting is planned and among the agenda items that day is the election of officers. The group has dubbed itself the Alki Business Coalition or ABC.

### ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT HIGHLIGHTS ADMIRAL MEETING

Representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) provided an overview of replacement alternatives for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project at the March 14 meeting of the Admiral Neighborhood Association (ANA). Information on the present condition of the Viaduct and Seawall was shared and both WSDOT and SDOT stated that the tunnel is the preferred replacement alternative. While preferences from ANA members vary, it was emphasized that maintaining the Viaduct's current travel capacity remains the number one objective for ANA and West Seattle.

# 2005 Neighborhood Matching Fund Survey Results

The Department of Neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) Program staff would like to thank all of you who completed the NMF Survey earlier this year. The goal of our annual survey is to give our customers the opportunity to give us feedback on our service to you. This year, 79 people from 29 neighborhoods responded.

Following are some key findings:

- 89% of responses stated that they are satisfied with the level of assistance and support given by NMF staff.
- 50% found the NMF application easy to use and understand - 50% did not find the NMF application easy to use.
- Over half of responses indicated that the "budget" section of the NMF application is difficult to use or understand and many suggested changes to the invoicing process.
- 75% said that the NMF funding was vital to the success of their community building project.

We received a variety of answers to the question, 'What does community building mean to you?' The vast array of answers clearly demonstrated the rich diversity of thought and ideas that make Seattle what it is.

Here are a few sample responses: "Developing the community from within by identifying and cultivating its assets", "People working together for the good of the community", "End result: strong, healthy, vibrant, and connected people", "It means getting members of the community involved and sorting out differences to come to a resolution of the issue".

The NMF staff will continue to review your input and comments in order to strengthen our program and serve you better. We will be putting together a work group to improve our NMF application and simplify the budget and invoicing process. We will keep you informed of program changes and encourage you to contact us if you have other comments or concerns. 🌐



City of Seattle  
Department of Neighborhoods  
700 5TH AVE STE 1700  
PO BOX 94649  
SEATTLE WA 98124-4649

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 5582